United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Risk Management Agency

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Stop 0801
Washington, DC
20250-0801

BULLETIN NO.: MGR-13- 004

MAY 8 2013

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices
All Other Interested Parties

FROM: Brandon Willis
Administrator

SUBJECT: Haying and Grazing of a Cover Crop for the 2013 Crop Year

BACKGROUND:

The Special Provisions for the 2013 crop year in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan state that in order to insure a spring crop, a producer must not hay, graze, or harvest a cover crop after May 10, 2013. The Special Provisions provide specifics of when the cover crop must be terminated before planting the spring crop. Grazing is not considered a method of terminating the cover crop. The cover crop needs to be terminated either with tillage or with a herbicide that is compatible with the crop to be planted.

The Risk Management Agency (RMA) has been advised that there are sporadic areas in the states listed above where the wet, cold spring has delayed normal cover crop growth and normal spring planting preparations. There may also be areas where it may not be possible for producers to enter the field to terminate the crop or plant at this time. As a result, RMA has received inquiries as to whether the last date by which a cover crop is to be hayed or grazed might be extended given the continued wet, cold conditions and the need for livestock feed. Given these conditions, there may be some economic benefit from continuing to allow the haying and grazing of the cover crop beyond May 10, 2013 while it is not possible to enter the field to terminate the crop or plant. Further, because of these conditions it should not affect the productivity of the spring planted crop.

ACTION:

While RMA does not have the authority to waive or alter this provision of the policy, it does recognize that certain conditions may exist that create an inability of the producer to meet the full intent of this provision. Because circumstances will be different for each producer, Approved Insurance Providers may, at their sole discretion, make a determination to allow the continuation of the haying or grazing of the cover crop until May 22, 2013. Nothing in this bulletin affects the date by which the crop must be terminated or the planting dates.

DISPOSAL DATE:

December 31, 2013